Directs that all the Heads of Departments and Subordinate Authorities should invariably record the Government dues, if any, or a "nil" Certificate in the relevant portion of the Pension application itself to avoid delay in the settlement of Pension Cases.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

No. FD (Spl.) 99 PEN 64, DATED BANGALORE, THE 23RD MARCH 1964.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that one of the reasons for delay in the settlement of pension cases is the delay in the issue of 'No-Due Certificates' to the Accountant General. While in the new form of application for pension, namely, Form 7 M. C. S. Rs., there is specific provision for indicating the Government dues recoverable from the retired Government servants, it is reported by the Accountant General that in most of the cases this portion of the application is left blank and even a separate certificate is not attached and in spite of repeated reminders by him the Heads of Departments or other controlling officers are not sending the required certificate and therefore he is constrained to withhold the issue of Pension Payment Orders till the "No-Due" certificate is received only for this reason. From the Monthly Returns received in the Finance Department and the correspondence, it is noticed that in a number of cases the reason attributed for the delay in issuing the certificate is that either the certificate has been called for from all the previous offices where the retired Government servant served or certain Audit Reports are still outstanding settlement and even in some cases where the certificate is issued, a qualified certificate is issued to the effect that "as known at present there are no dues" or "as intimated by certain officers there are no dues", etc. In this connection it has to be pointed out that the Government dues recoverable from a Government servant, specially in the non-gazetted cadre, is indicated in the Last Pay Certificate issued by the previous office and therefore the ultimate dues, if any, should be known to the office where the Government servant retired. Hence, there is absolutely no need to refer the question to the offices where the retired Government servant previously served. The office where he retired should ascertain as to whether there are any Government dues still outstanding with reference to their own records and also with reference to the final orders on the departmental investigations or enquiries, if any, instituted against the Government servant, specifically assessing any amounts due from him. Even in cases where there are any amounts assessable to the Government servant, unless the departmental enquiry had been instituted before the Government servant retired or is instituted within one year from the date of retirement under Orders of Government as envisaged in Rule 214 M.C.S. Rs., no amount can be recovered from the pension of the retired Government servant. Therefore, the plea that certain audit reports have been still pending or any amounts have been suspected to be recoverable from him, is no justification for withholding the "No-Due" Certificate. If there is any failure to institute the enquiries and to assess the loss to Government to be made good by the Government servant well in time, the responsibility therefor should be fixed on the higher officers who were responsible for the failure or delay. It is therefore directed that all the Heads of Departments and subordinate authorities should invariably record the Government dues, if any, or a "nil" certificate in the relevant portion of the pension application itself with a view to avoiding delay in the settlement of the pension on this account. Should any cases of avoidable delay come to the notice of Government, severe notice will be taken.

N. S. BHARATH,
Deputy Secy. to Govt., F. D.